Department of State

TELEGRAM

PL 14 VIETS

(1278) 28

CONFIDENTIAL 540

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09741 270948Z

EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,
DOD 01,SP 02,SS 20,SAL 01,IO 21,SAH 03,NSAE 00,RSR 01,/115 W

P 270845Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9751

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Sjoberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9741

FOL TEL RECED THIS STA FROM DANANG 26 OCT REPEATED YOUR STA

QUOTE

DANANG 276

SUBJ: WINNERS IN QUANG NGAI

REF: DANANG 150, 239, 256, 257

1. REFTELS REPORTED ON CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR 5 QUANG NGAI SEATS (ONE MTGD AND 4 VIET). OF 202,664 REGISERED VOTERS 146,452 VOTED.

2. BIG WINNER IN QUANG NGAI WAS SINGLE MONTAGNARD CANDIDATE DINH VAN ROI WITH 129,601 VOTES OR 88.4 PERCENT PROBABLY MAKING ROI THE SINGLE LARGEST VOTE GETTER IN COUNTRY. ROI IS 35 YEARS, A HRE TRIBESMAN AND PREVIOUSLY WAS A TRUONG SON WORKER IN QUANG NGAI. IN 1966 ROI WAS ELECTED FROM FIELD OF 4 MONTAGNARD CANDIDATES TO MTGD SEAT IN CA WITH OVER 50 PERCENT OF VOTES. IN CA HE IMMEDIATELY JOINED ALLIANCE BLOC (LATER DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE BLOC). IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ROI SERVED AS CAMPAIGN REP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09741 270948Z

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9741 C O N F I D E N T I A L
FOR THIEU/KY IN QUANG NGAI.

3. FOR VIETNAMESE SEATS WINNER WAS NGUYEN AN WITH 41,433 VOTES OR 28.2 PERCENT. AN IS 39 YEARS OLD, A BUDDHIST, AND A NATIVE OF QUANG NGAI'S DUC PHO DISTRICT. PREVIOUSLY AN WAS DEPUTY CH EF PROVINCE CG AND WAS OBJE T OF CRITICISM BY MOST CA CANDIDATES IN 1966 FOR PARTISON SUPPORT GIVEN TRAN HOANG. HOANG IS LONG TIME LEADER OF NTT FACTION IN QUANG NGAI, BUT WHILE ATIENDING CA MEETINGS IN SAIGON AN TOOK OVER RUNNING FACTION. IN JUL 1966 WAS ELECTED SECGEN OF FACTION. RECENTLY AN HAS HAD FALLING UT WITH PREVIOUSLY STRONG SUPPORTER NGUYEN LUC TE CG CHIEF (SEE DANANG 2561) IN SPITE OF THIS HOWEVER, AN LED FIELD PROBABLY CONFIRMING FACT THAT NTT IS STILL STRONGEST VNQDD FACTION IN QUANG NGAI. AN CAMPAIGNED TOGETHER WITH NGUEYEN BIEN AND TRAN VAN PHIEN.

4. SECOND WINNER WAS NGUYEN BIEN WITH 35,364 VOTES FOR 24.1 PERCENT. BIEN IS 43 YEARS OLD, A BUDDHIST, AND A NATIVE OF BINH THUAN. APPARENTLY CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TO BIEN'S SUCCESS WAS FACT THAT HE HELPED FOUND AND HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH POPULAR CHAN HUNG PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN QUANG NGAI. HE HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL SINCE 1955 AND APPARENTLY GOT WIDE SUPPORT FROM FORMER STUDENTS. BIEN CAMPAIGNED TOGETHER WITH AN ABOCE AND TRAN VAN PHIEN. THERE IS

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9741 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SOME QUESTION AS TO BIEN'S PARTY AFFILIATION. [b-1 ed

I CLAIM THAT BIEN IS A VNQDD MEMBER OF NTT FACTION(TRAN HOANG) AS IS AN. RDV LEADERS. HOWEVER, CLAIM BIEN WAS THEIR CANDIATE AND IS IF NOT ACTUALLY A MEMBER, AN ACTIVE SYMPATHIZER ABOUT TO BECOME A MEMBER. FOR TIME BEING WE WILL CONSIDER HIM AN RDV MEMBER AS IT APPEARS HE MAY HAE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH VNQDD IN PAST BUT RECENTLY SWITCHED DUE TO ASSOCIATION WITH NEW RDV LEADERSHIP IN QUANG NGAI WHICH CONSISTS LARGELY OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS. HIS ALLIGNMENT IN LOWER HOUSE WILL BE MORE FIRM EVIDENCE OF HIS GROUP AFFILIANTIONS.

5. WINNER OF THIRD VN SEAT WAS TRAN VAN PHIEN WITH 34,379

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09741 270948Z

VOTES OR 23.4 PERCENT. PHIEN IS 41 YEARS OLD, A BUDDHIST, AND A NATIVE OF QUANG NGAI. CURRENTLY HE HAS BEEN SERVING AS A CA DEPUTY FROM QUANG NGAI. PHIEN HAS SERVED IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES IN QUANG NGAI DISTRICT CHIEF OF NGHIA HANH (54-56) AND BETWEEN 56-66 WORKED FOR PROVINCE HEADQUARTES AS SECURITY CHIEF AND ALSO RD CHIEF. PHIEN IS A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE POLITICALLY. ALTHOUGH AN INDEPENDENT, PHIEN HAS ALLIED AT SOME TIME WITH ALMOST EVERY POLITICAL PARY. IN CA ELECTION HE RAN AS TAN DAI VIET

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9741 C O N F I D E N T I A L
AND IN THIS ELECTION WAS ALLIED WITH AN A "NTT" VNQDDAND BIEN, PROBABLY AN RDV MEMBER. IN UPPER HOUSE RACE PHIEN RAN ON PRO-TRI QUANG HO HUU TUONG LIST WHICH WAS DISQUALIFIED. IN LOWER HOUSE RACE HE WAS SUPPORTED BY BUDDHISTS, THESE VOTES AN AND BIEN COULD DELIVER. ADDITIONALLY PHIEN REMAINED FAIRLY POPULAR AT HOME BY MAINTAING CONTACT WITH HOME FRONT.

6. WINNER OF FOURTH VN SEAT WAS PHAM TAN NGO WITH 31,984 VOTES OR 21.8 PERCENT. NHO IS 32, A BUDDHIST AND A NATIVE OF HUE. NHO IS A CIVIL SERVANT AND ALSO ON BOARD OF ADVISORS FOR QUANG NGAI UBA BUDDHIST FAMILY GROUP. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY BUDDHIST CANDIDATE AND ADVERTISED HIS AFFILIATIONS INHIS PROPOGANDA LEAFLETS POINTING TO HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST DIEM AND MORE RECENTLY AGAINST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. NHO CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED TO LINE UP WITH THERS LIKE MAJOR NGHIA FROM THUA THIEN AND BE FAIRLY OUTSPOKEN AGAINST GOVT.

7. RUNNERS UP WERE CATHOLIC, CAN LAO CHAU DINH HOANG WITH 27,186 VOTES AND TWO KY BO VNQDD CANDIDATES LE VINH HOAI DUC WITH 25,807 VOTES AND NGUYEN HUU LY WITH 22,277 VOTES.
KOREN UNQUTE
BUNKER

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